

## § 3280.406

### § 3280.406 Air chamber test method for certification and qualification of formaldehyde emission levels.

(a) *Preconditioning.* Preconditioning of plywood or particleboard panels for air chamber tests shall be initiated as soon as practicable but not in excess of 30 days after the plywood or particleboard is produced or surface-finished, whichever is later, using randomly selected panels.

(1) If preconditioning is to be initiated more than two days after the plywood or particleboard is produced or surface-finished, whichever is later, the panels must be dead-stacked or airtight wrapped until preconditioning is initiated.

(2) Panels selected for testing in the air chamber shall not be taken from the top or bottom of the stack.

(b) *Testing.* Testing must be conducted in accordance with the Standard Test Method for Determining Formaldehyde Levels from Wood Products Under Defined Test Conditions Using a Large Chamber, ASTM E 1333-96, with the following exceptions:

(1) The chamber shall be operated indoors.

(2) Plywood and particleboard panels shall be individually tested in accordance with the following loading ratios:

(i) Plywood—0.29 Ft<sup>2</sup>/Ft<sup>3</sup>, and

(ii) Particleboard—0.13 Ft<sup>2</sup>/Ft<sup>3</sup>.

(3) Temperature to be maintained inside the chamber shall be 77° plus or minus 2 °F.

(4) The test concentration (C) shall be standardized to a level (C<sub>0</sub>) at a temperature (t<sub>0</sub>) of 77 °F and 50% relative humidity (H<sub>0</sub>) by the following formula:

$$C = C_0 \times [1 + Ax (H - H_0)] \times e^{-R(t/t_0 - 1/t_0)}$$

where:

C = Test formaldehyde concentration

C<sub>0</sub> = Standardized formaldehyde concentration

e = Natural log base

R = Coefficient of temperature (9799)

t = Actual test condition temperature (° K)

t<sub>0</sub> = Standardized temperature (° K)

A = Coefficient of humidity (0.0175)

H = Actual relative humidity (%)

H<sub>0</sub> = Standardized relative humidity (%)

The standardized level (C<sub>0</sub>) is the concentration used to determine compliance with § 3280.308(a).

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(5) The air chamber shall be inspected and recalibrated at least annually to insure its proper operation under test conditions.

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### Subpart F—Thermal Protection

#### § 3280.501 Scope.

This subpart sets forth the requirements for condensation control, air infiltration, thermal insulation and certification for heating and comfort cooling.

#### § 3280.502 Definitions.

(a) The following definitions are applicable to subpart F only:

(1) *Pressure envelope* means that primary air barrier surrounding the living space which serves to limit air leakage. In construction using ventilated cavities, the pressure envelope is the interior skin.

(2) *Thermal envelope area* means the sum of the surface areas of outside walls, ceiling and floor, including all openings. The wall area is measured by multiplying outside wall lengths by the inside wall height from floor to ceiling. The floor and ceiling areas are considered as horizontal surfaces using exterior width and length.

#### § 3280.503 Materials.

Materials used for insulation shall be of proven effectiveness and adequate durability to assure that required design conditions concerning thermal transmission are attained.

#### § 3280.504 Condensation control and installation of vapor retarders.

(a) *Ceiling vapor retarders.* (1) In U<sub>o</sub> Value Zones 2 and 3, ceilings must have a vapor retarder with a permeance of not greater than 1 perm (as measured by ASTM E 96-95 Standard Test Methods for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials) installed on the living space side of the roof cavity.

(2) For manufactured homes designed for U<sub>o</sub> Value Zone 1, the vapor retarder may be omitted.

(b) *Exterior walls.* (1) Exterior walls must have a vapor retarder with a